

BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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DEBRA GOETZE,  
Charging Party

HRB CASE NO. 0160444

-v-

FINAL AGENCY DECISION

GREAT FALLS DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY,  
Respondent

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Charging Party, Debra Goetze (Goetze), filed a complaint with the Department of Labor and Industry (Department) alleging discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, sex and retaliation. Following an informal investigation, the Department determined that a preponderance of the evidence did not support Goetze's allegations that Respondent, Great Falls Development Authority, discriminated against Goetze. The Department issued a Notice of Dismissal. Goetze filed an objection with the Montana Human Rights Commission (Commission). The Commission considered the matter on July 22, 2016. No oral argument was requested for this hearing.

The Commission reviews a decision of the Department to dismiss a complaint using an abuse of discretion standard. *Section 49-2-511(2), MCA*. After careful consideration, the Commission concludes the determination of the Department to dismiss the complaint in this case is not an abuse of discretion.

If a charging party chooses to commence a civil action in district court, the charging party has 90 days after the date this order is issued to file a complaint in district court, in the district where the alleged violation occurred, and seek appropriate relief. *Section 49-2-511(3)(a), MCA*. If a charging party fails to commence a civil action within 90 days, the claims are time barred. *Id.*

Alternatively, a party may ask a district court to review the decision of the Commission to affirm the dismissal of a complaint. *Sections 2-4-702 and 49-2-511(3)(b), MCA.* This review must be requested within 30 days of the date of this order. A party must promptly serve copies of a petition for judicial review upon the Human Rights Commission and all parties of record. *Section 2-4-702(2), MCA.*

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Debra Goetze's objection is **overruled**. The Commission affirms the determination of the Human Rights Bureau to dismiss the complaint against Great Falls Development Authority.

DATED this 3rd day of August, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis M. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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Dennis M. Taylor, Chair  
Human Rights Commission

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned secretary for the Human Rights Commission certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing ORDER was mailed to the following by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on this 3rd day of August, 2016.

DEBRA GOETZE  
50 BIG PINE LANE  
CASCADE, MT 59421

KIMBERLY S. MORE  
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KALISPELL, MT 59901-0759



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Annah Howard, Legal Secretary  
Montana Human Rights Bureau